

### REMARKS

Claims 31, 32, 53, 54, 56, 58, 59, 61-71, 73, 75-80, and 82-103 are pending and subject to examination. Claims 31, 32, and 82 were found to be in condition for allowance. Claims 53, 54, 56, 58, 59, 61-71, 73, 75-80, and 83-103 were rejected. The Examiner's rejections are addressed below.

#### Objections to the Specification

The specification has been amended to appropriately identify the marks PBLUESCRIPT™ and SEPHAROSE®.

#### Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph – “Interactions”

The Examiner has maintained the position that “one skilled in the art would not know what other kinds of interactions Applicants intended to measure.” The Applicants disagree. However, to expedite prosecution, the Applicants have amended the claims to indicate that the interactions are either binding interactions (e.g., as specified in claim 56) or an activity-modulating interaction (e.g., as specified in claim 54).

#### Other Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claim 53 was rejected for recitation of the term “evaluate.” The Applicants respectfully disagree that the term “evaluate” is indefinite. However, to expedite, the Applicants have amended the claim to remove the term.

Claim 68 was rejected for recitation of the term “test molecule.” The Applicants have amended claim 68 according to the suggestion of the Examiner.

Claims 69, 70, and 71 were rejected because “one skilled in the art would not when in the method of claim 68 to perform the additional steps provided by” claims 69, 70, and 71. These claims have been amended to indicate that the additional steps can be performed after the step of detecting claim 68.

Claims 67, 71, and 83-103 were rejected for recitation of the term "aging symptoms." The claims have been amended and now refer to the "rate of aging." Example 3, at page 43, describes an exemplary method for detecting the rate of aging by measuring lifespans.

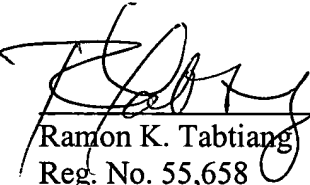
Claims 73 and 75-80 were rejected for recitation of the phrase "can express." The claims have been amended.

The Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are in condition for allowance, which action is expeditiously requested. The Applicants do not concede any positions of the Examiner that are not expressly addressed above. All amendments and cancellations are made without prejudice and disclaimer and may be made for reasons not explicitly stated or for reasons in addition to ones stated.

Enclosed is a \$210 check for the Petition for Extension of Time fee. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050. In the event that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at 617-521-7017 or the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 20 Sept 2004

  
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